3/1/04 3/1/04

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT:

PETER PAL VARGA et al.)

TITLE:

METHOD OF IMPLANTING

AN INTERVERTEBRAL

SPACER

SERIAL NO.:

10/055,783

RESPONSE B

FILED:

January 22, 2002

EXAMINER

D. Willse

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ART UNIT: 3738 FEB 1 7 2004

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Responsive to the election or restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action, Paper No. 9, mailed December 1, 2003, applicants request entry of this Response B and reconsideration of the above-captioned application.

A shortened statutory period for response of one (1) month was set for response to the Office Action. Accordingly, a Petition for

Certificate of Deposit Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on-the day of physics, 2004.

/11/2004 DTESSEM1 00000120-10055783

55.00 DP

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Attorney for Applicant